

## National Association of Hispanic Journalists

### Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, September 10, 2022

9:00 a.m. PST to 12:01 p.m PST

12:01 p.m. EST to 3:00 p.m. EST

**Present:** Yvette Cabrera, Arelis Hernandez, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mc Nelly Torres, Marilyn Garateix, Melissa Macaya, Valerie Mia Juarez, Luis Joel Méndez González, Adriana Chavira, David Cordero Mercado, Blanca Rios, Ninette Sosa, Johnny Cordoba, Brenda Elizondo

**Not present:** Elwyn Lopez, Jamie Stockwell, Cristy Fajardo

**Guests:** David Peña, BA Snyder, Nora Lopez, Leslie-Anne Frank, Yunuen Bonaparte

#### I. Open Public Session

- A. Yvette Cabrera, NAHJ National President started the meeting at 9:06 a.m. PT.
- B. Yvette Cabrera welcomed everyone and provided a quick recap of the last meeting and conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada
- C. Yvette Cabrera shared that NAHJ's Rapid Response Team issued two recent statements including a joint organization with NABJ and AAJA statement condemning the New York Times of racial disparities in performance reviews. The team also spoke up in defense of our very own NAHJ National Board Member Adriana Chavira – calling on a Daniel Pearl Magnet High School principal to drop disciplinary action against her for supporting the school's student paper staff.
- D. Yvette Cabrera also mentioned NAHJ is accepting applications for the 2022 Ñ Awards which will be presented on Sunday, Oct. 30 in D.C., and the NAHJ Board and staff are now preparing for the conference in Miami which takes place July 12-26.
- E. Yvette Cabrera welcomed our newest Rapid Response team member - David Cordero Mercado who was instrumental in our recent statement against attacks against journalists in Puerto Rico.

#### II. Approval of Minutes from the National Meeting held in Las Vegas during the convention.

- A. Blanca moved to approve the minutes. Mc Nelly seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

#### III. Association Update - David Peña Jr., Executive Director

- A. **2022 NABJ Convention** David reported that NAHJ has not received the final invoice from the hotel as they require 30 days. Subsequently we will then receive an invoice from NABJ for joint expenses. Our preliminary number is that jointly we had over 4,600 attendees. NAHJ's post convention attendee numbers were 1,170.
- B. **2023 Convention Planning** Scheduled for July 12-15, 2023. Registration is already open. Due to the hotel contract being signed over four years ago, we will be at capacity. We will have to cap attendees at 1,100. The hotel is also capped at 427 rooms.
- C. **Ñ Awards** Submissions are now open. The awards will take place virtually on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The 2023 awards will be in Los Angeles during the first week of November.

- D. **Students** Upcoming Student Regional summits Feb. 11 at Columbia University and Feb. 25 at USC Los Angeles.
- E. **Fundraising** We have collected 75% on convention sponsorships. We will be reaching out to our partners this month to get in-front of their October and end of year budget planning.
- F. **Membership** Currently we have a total of 4,183 members; 3,304 professional members. We are in the process of looking more closely at the makeup of our membership so that our budget outlook more accurately reflects our members.
- G. **October is budget month** Staff will begin to prepare our draft budget. If there are programs or initiatives the committees are hoping to execute in 2023, they will have to submit those budget requests to Yvette and David before the end of the month.
- H. **Scholarships** We will be making an end of year appeal. If you, your family or friends are looking for a tax deduction before the end of the year. Please consider making a donation to the NAHJ Scholarship Fund.
- I. **Transparency NAHJ** recently received the highest Recognition/Seal awarded by **Candid** to Non-Profits for organizational transparency.

#### IV. Update on the Initial Bylaw Review Process

- A. Arelis Hernandez, NAHJ Board member provided an update to the board. We recently had a nonprofit attorney review our bylaws for revision recommendations. We have a spreadsheet that we will be filling out along with members of a committee that includes several board members. We should start meeting within the next month. Goal is to have some kind of presentation for the board to vote on in December. The draft election guide, membership guide need input from everyone.

#### V. National Board committees/advisory committees presentation

- A. **Strategic Planning Implementation:** Melissa takes over as Chair. Yvette will remain a member.
- B. **Rapid Response-** Already Approved.
- C. **Financial/Audit:** Already approved. It includes all executive board members.
- D. **Advocacy Committee:** Yvette will chair this new committee that makes advocacy a priority for the organization. It will include all regional directors and an advisory committee that includes chapter presidents.
- E. **Bylaws revision task force** – Arelis chairs. Invitation should be going out to the membership this week inviting folks to sign up if interested.
- F. **Board Policies Committee** – Arelis heads this as well. It will be executed in tandem with the Bylaws committee.
- G. **Ad Hoc Committee** – New committee led by Blanca and Mc Nelly. Yvette said the committee was created so that we are prepared to respond to issues like members or other sensitive issues that require investigation.
- H. **Investment advisory committee:** Chaired by Marilyn. Marilyn said want people with experience with investments to join. Anything to help us make money.
- I. **Elections Committee** - Need both an advisory committee and elections committee. Advisory will take a look at the guidelines to update those in between now and the next election.
- J. **Latina Leadership [Academy advisory committee](#):** Blanca will chair. The goal is to create a Latina Leadership Academy. This committee started under Nora. She will remain on the committee.

We are in the process of recruiting more members now. Member Jillian Melero stepped up to help out via the meeting chat.

- K. Hall of Fame 2022 and Ñ Awards Committee:** Co-Chairs Ninette Sosa and Johnny Cordoba.
- L. NAHJ Miami 2023 Conference:** Conference Co-Chairs.TK Committee Chair: Members: Mc Nelly Torres, David Cordero Mercado, Marilyn Garateix. The South Florida chapter is looking to help.
- M. Academic advisory committee:** Chair Adriana Chavira has a goal of incorporating high school students.
- N. National Collegiate Council:** Brenda went over a spreadsheet she created with proposals for the year. It includes helping students with the cost of transportation at conferences. Marilyn and Ninette proposed getting help from local universities for housing and bussing.
- O. Investigative & Data Task Force:** Chair Mc Nelly Torres. Subcommittee chairs: Academic: Adriana Chavira; Management: Yvette Cabrera. Investigations & Data: Mc Nelly Torres. Members: Cristy Fajardo, David Cordero Mercado, Luis Joel Méndez González
- P. Afro-Latinx Task Force:** Co-Chairs, Keldy Ortiz and Yvonne Latty (confirmed to continue)
- Q. Sports Task Force:** Co-Chairs, Iliana Limon and Joe Rodriguez (confirmed, discuss priorities,purpose).
- R. Visual Task Force:** Arelis chairing. This is still in the works but the goal is to elevate our visual journalists.
- S. Freelance Advisory Committee:** Julio Cesar is chairing and hopes to continue his Freelance Map Project.
- T. Latino Reporter advisory committee:** Chair Arelis Hernandez, members: Monica Rhor, David Plazas, Cristela Guerra, Cindy E. Rodríguez, Marissa Lang, Carlos Avila Gonzalez, Ana Ley, Rafael Carranza, Joe Ruiz, Nicole Chavez, Jason Gonzales
- U. LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee:** Co-Chair, Luis Joel Méndez González, Member Co-chair, David Cordero Mercado – Goal is to tackle sexual harassment, pressure sure of LGBTQIA+ members to look and act in a certain way in journalism industry, sensitivity training and more.
- V. Broadcast advisory committee:** Julio Cesar chairing. It will split into subcommittees of radio, production, photographers and on-camera

**VI.** Adriana moved to approve the committees as presented. Julio Cesar seconded the motion. Luis Joel asked that we follow bylaws and take minutes for each committee meeting as well as put advisories. Including definition of the list. Roll call vote was made. The motion passed.

## **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A.** Mc Nelly moved to go into executive session. Adriana seconded. Motion passed at 10:39am.
- B.** Yvette Cabrera, Arelis Hernandez, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mc Nelly Torres, Marilyn Garateix, Melissa Macaya, Valerie Mia Juarez, Luis Joel, Adriana Chavira, David Cordero Mercado, Blanca Rios, Ninette Sosa, Nora Lopez
- C.** Adriana moved to close the executive session at 12:02pm. Mc Nelly seconded the motion. Motion passed

## **VIII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

- A.** Returned at 12:05 p.m.

## **IX. AUDIT/990 PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & VOTE**

- A. Marilyn Garatiex, National Board Finance Office went over the 2021 NAHJ Audit and 990. NAHJ received an “unqualified opinion” which means the organization received a clean report - as it has consistently every year. That means the financials are in order. Once approved the 2021 audit will be posted along with past audits on the NAHJ website.
- B. Marilyn moved to approve the audit as presented. Arelis seconded. Roll call vote was made. The motion was approved
- C. David Pena provided the national board an overview of the 2021 990 (NAHJ’s national tax return) Once approved by the board, it will also be posted on the website.
- D. Arelis moved to approve the 2021 990 as presented. Adriana seconded. Roll call vote was made. Motion was approved

## **PALABRA UPDATE**

- E. Managing Editor Valeria Fernández gave a presentation about the content that Palabra has published in recent months. She also discussed upcoming projects and took questions from the Board.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Two professional chapters are up for approval. Reactivating professional chapters in Charlotte, and consideration and approval of new chapters in Tampa and a new student chapter in Puerto Rico.
- B. David Cordero moved to approve Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico recinto de Bayamón as a student chapter. Arelis seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- C. Blanca moved to reactivate the professional chapter in Charlotte and approve the new professional chapter in Tampa. Arelis seconded. The motion passed.
- D. David asked for the authority to look into the Latino Journalism Action Fund which would create a 501-3-C-4 for more advocacy work.
- E. Mc Nelly moved to approve an exploratory process for the Latinos Journalism Action fund. David Cordero seconded. Motion passed.

## **XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Jennifer Marcial Ocasio resigned after accepting a new position outside of journalism.
- B. She has agreed to help with the process of her replacement.
- C. It will need to be appointed. Deadline of September 24 for candidates to submit resume and statement of intent. They will be vetted and Yvette will choose three finalists to present to the board.

## **XII. CLOSING REMARKS**

- A. Next board meeting is November 5th. At 9am pacific. Retreat is coming up in December. No details yet.
- B. Meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m